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10/645,687	08/20/2003	Kim Simelius	881A.0013.U1(US)	8280	
29683 75	10/30/2006		EXAMINER		
HARRINGTON & SMITH, LLP 4 RESEARCH DRIVE			SYED, FARHAN M		
SHELTON, CT 06484-6212			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER	
,			2165		
		•	DATE MAILED: 10/30/2000	DATE MAILED: 10/30/2006	

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

	Application No.	Applicant(s)			
	10/645,687	SIMELIUS ET AL.			
Office Action Summary	Examiner	Art Unit			
	Farhan M. Syed	2165			
The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address					
Period for Reply  A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS,					
WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DA  - Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.13 after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.  - If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period w  - Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).	ATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION  16(a). In no event, however, may a reply be tirn  fill apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from cause the application to become ABANDONE	N. sely filed the mailing date of this communication. D. (35 U.S.C. § 133).			
Status					
1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 Au	<u>ıgust 2006</u> .				
,	·				
3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is					
closed in accordance with the practice under Ex parte Quayle, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.					
Disposition of Claims					
4) Claim(s) 1-22 is/are pending in the application.					
4a) Of the above claim(s) is/are withdrawn from consideration.					
5) Claim(s) is/are allowed.		·			
6)⊠ Claim(s) <u>1-22</u> is/are rejected.					
7) Claim(s) is/are objected to.	Sala atta a sa sa da sas asat	•			
8) Claim(s) are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.					
Application Papers					
9) The specification is objected to by the Examine	r.				
10)⊠ The drawing(s) filed on <u>20 August 2003</u> is/are: a)⊠ accepted or b)□ objected to by the Examiner.					
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).					
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).  11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.					
11) The dath of declaration is objected to by the Ex	anniner. Note the attached Office	Action of form 1 10 102.			
Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119					
12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f). a) All b) Some * c) None of:					
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.					
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No					
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage					
application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).					
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.					
Attachment(s)					
1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) Interview Summary Paper No(s)/Mail D	(PTO-413) rate.			
2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)	5) 🔲 Notice of Informal I				
Paper No(s)/Mail Date	6)				

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#### **DETAILED ACTION**

1. Claims 1-22 are pending.

### Response to Remarks

## Specification/Abstract

2. Applicant's remarks, see page 8, filed 18 July 2006, with respect to the abstract have been fully considered and are persuasive. The objection of the abstract in the non-final action dated 17 February 2006 has been withdrawn.

## Drawing

3. Applicant's remarks, see page 8, filed 18 July 2006, with respect to the drawings have been fully considered and are persuasive. The objection of the drawings in the non-final action dated 17 February 2006 has been withdrawn.

# Response to Argument

4. Applicant's arguments filed 18 July 2006 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive for the reasons set forth below.

# Applicant argues:

(1) "The cited prior art publications do not as a combination or separately teach the subject matter recited in the independent claims: 'said grouping identifier being associable to at least one other data item for grouping said data items."

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The Examiner respectfully disagrees. The 'grouping identifier' that is prevalent throughout the amended claims 1-22 flows naturally from the prior art of record. In specific, the Examiner refers to Champagne et al (U.S. Patent Pub. 2005/0086199) paragraph [0036], that states "In the case of personal information manager (PIM) applications, several types of databases are typically used, where the type of a database corresponds to the type of data stored in the database: appointments, 'to do' lists, address books, expense records, general notes records, and emails. For these types of databases, a field identification protocol preferably provides a comprehensive list of field categories such that the fields of most, if not all, of commercially available PIM databases can be categorized according to the categories in the field identification protocol." The preceding text clearly illustrates the use of grouping identifier such as a field identification protocol (i.e. appointments, 'to do', address book). Terms such as these clearly anticipate the classification and/or use of grouping identifier, because in an address book, there exists myriad number of names, addresses, phone numbers, etc. that are all grouped under the auspices of address book. The same example can be illustrated using appointment, 'to do' list, etc. Therefore, the Applicant's illustration of using the grouping identifier to group hobbies, data items dealing with work, etc. are in essence a variation of what the prior art of record embodies. Hence, the Applicant's arguments do not distinguish over the claimed invention over the prior art of record.

Any other arguments by the applicant are either more limiting than the claimed language or completely irrelevant.

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## Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

- (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.
- 6. Claims 1-8, 12-20, and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Alam et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,324,544 and known hereinafter as Alam) in view of Champagne et al (U.S. Patent Pub. No. 2005/0086199 and known hereinafter as Champagne).

As per claims 1, 15, and 22, Alam teaches a method for synchronizing data between a first electronic device and a second electronic device, said devices being capable of communication with each other (i.e. "In order to accomplish synchronization, synchronization components 24 and 36 run on mobile device 12 and desktop computer 14, respectively. The synchronization components communicate with application programs 16, 18, 28 and 30 (or directly with the associated object stores) through well defined interfaces (discussed in greater detail below) to manage communication and synchronization." The preceding text clearly indicates that the first device is the desktop computer and the second device is the mobile device.)(column 5, lines 28-34), characterized by the method comprising; forming a data item for the first time into the first electronic device (i.e. "Sync engine 36 on desktop 14 also includes a synchronization manager 148 coupled to an associated reference store 150 and also coupled to application programs, including PIM sync provider 152 and file sync provider 154." The previous text clearly indicates that the associated reference store is the forming of a data item for the first time into the first electronic device, which is the desktop.)(column 9, paragraph 56-60)

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Alam does not explicitly teaches a method in response to forming, associating said formed data item to a grouping identifier, said grouping identifier being associable to at least one other data item for grouping said data items, selecting at least one grouping identifier, and synchronizing data items between said first electronic device and said second electronic device on the basis of said at least one selected grouping identifier.

Champagne teaches a method in response to forming, associating said formed data item to an grouping identifier (i.e. "The category of a field defines the type of information the field is designed or meant to contain." The preceding text clearly indicates that the formed data item is the type of information the field is designed or meant to contain and the identifier is the category.)(page 3, paragraph 36), said grouping identifier being associable to at least one other data item for grouping said data items (i.e. "In other embodiments, the field identification protocol provides a list of field categories for a selected group of databases or for those databases designed to conform to the protocol." The previous text clearly indicates that a list of field categories (identifiers) for grouping of data items, which are contained in the grouping of databases.)(page 3, paragraph 36), selecting at least one grouping identifier, and synchronizing data items between said first electronic device and said second electronic device on the basis of said at least one selected grouping identifier (i.e. "In a third aspect, in order to transmit data between two databases, information identifying the record structure of one of the two databases is transmitted to a computer program. This transmitted information identifies both the categories and the properties of a plurality of fields of the record'structure of one of the two databases. Data stored in a plurality of fields of a plurality of the records of the first database is then transmitted from one of the two databases to the other one of the two databases. The transmitted data is then processed using the identifying information." The preceding text clearly indicates that synchronizing data is transmitting data from the first electronic device, which is the

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first database, and second electronic device, which is the second database, based on the selected identifier, which is the identifying information.)(page 1, paragraph 11).

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of Applicant's invention to modify the teachings of Alam with the teachings of Champagne to include a method in response to forming, associating said formed data item to a grouping identifier, said grouping identifier being associable to at least one other data item for grouping said data items, selecting at least one grouping identifier, and synchronizing data items between said first electronic device and said second electronic device on the basis of said at least one selected grouping identifier with the motivation to efficiently overcome problems associated with synchronizing files. (Alam, column 3, lines 18-19).

As per claim 2, Alam does not teach a method characterized by the grouping identifier comprising at least one of the following: text, still picture, moving picture, sound or vibration effect.

Champagne teaches a method characterized by the grouping identifier comprising at least one of the following: text, still picture, moving picture, sound or vibration effect (i.e. "As mentioned, a field identification protocol provides a syntax for remote and host data transfer programs 22, 42 to communicate with one another the data structure of their respective databases. Such a syntax includes, for example, assigning to each field category a designation (for example, a numerical, alphabetical, or alphanumerical code or name) identifying that field category, such as "Addr" for address, "Tell" for the first telephone number, "Appt:date" for a date field of an appointment type record." The preceding text clearly indicates that numerical, alphabetical, or alphanumeric code or name is a type of text.)(page 3, paragraph 42).

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It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of Applicant's invention to modify the teachings of Alam with the teachings of Champagne to include a method characterized by the grouping identifier comprising at least one of the following: text, still picture, moving picture, sound or vibration effect with the motivation to efficiently overcome problems associated with synchronizing files. (Alam, column 3, lines 18-19).

As per claim 3, Alam does not teach a method characterized by the grouping identifier is formed by the user of the device or the grouping identifier is retrieved from a network server .

Champagne teaches a method characterized by the grouping identifier is formed by the user of the device or the grouping identifier is retrieved from a network server (i.e. "In the case of personal information manager (PIM) applications, several types of databases are typically used, where the type of a database corresponds to the type of data stored in the database: appointments, "to do" lists, address books, expense records, general notes records, and e-mails. For these types of databases, a field identification protocol preferably provides a comprehensive list of field categories such that the fields of most, if not all, of commercially available PIM databases can be categorized according to the categories in the field identification protocol." The preceding text clearly indicates that an identifier such as appointments, "to do" lists, address books, etc., are formed by the user of the device when the user uses the PIM application.) (page 3, paragraph 36).

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of Applicant's invention to modify the teachings of Alam with the teachings of Champagne to include a method characterized by the grouping identifier is formed by the user of the device or the grouping identifier is retrieved from a network server with the motivation to

efficiently overcome problems associated with synchronizing files. (Alam, column 3, lines 18-19).

As per claims 4 and 16, Alam does not teach a method characterized by, the method further comprising maintaining a register of at least one grouping identifier being associable to at least one data item stored into the memory of the first electronic device.

Champagne teaches a method characterized by, the method further comprising maintaining a register of at least one grouping identifier being associable to at least one data item stored into the memory of the first electronic device (i.e. "In the case of personal information manager (PIM) applications, several types of databases are typically used, where the type of a database corresponds to the type of data stored in the database: appointments, "to do" lists, address books, expense records, general notes records, and e-mails. For these types of databases, a field identification protocol preferably provides a comprehensive list of field categories such that the fields of most, if not all, of commercially available PIM databases can be categorized according to the categories in the field identification protocol." The preceding text clearly indicates that a personal information manager comprises of a plurality of data items associated to a plurality of identifiers.)(page 3, paragraph 36).

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of Applicant's invention to modify the teachings of Alam with the teachings of Champagne to include a method characterized by, the method further comprising maintaining a register of at least one grouping identifier being associable to at least one data item stored into the memory of the first electronic device with the motivation to efficiently overcome problems associated with synchronizing files. (Alam, column 3, lines 18-19).

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As per claims 5 and 17, Alam does not teach a method characterized by, said data item is associated to a grouping identifier that is manually selected from the register by a user of the first electronic device.

Champagne teaches a method characterized by, said data item is associated to a grouping identifier that is manually selected from the register by a user of the first electronic device (i.e. "In the case of personal information manager (PIM) applications, several types of databases are typically used, where the type of a database corresponds to the type of data stored in the database: appointments, "to do" lists, address books, expense records, general notes records, and e-mails. For these types of databases, a field identification protocol preferably provides a comprehensive list of field categories such that the fields of most, if not all, of commercially available PIM databases can be categorized according to the categories in the field identification protocol." The preceding text clearly indicates that a user may manually select general notes, which is the identifier, from the register, which is a PIM application, and within the general notes contains data items, which are general notes records.)(page 3, paragraph 36).

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of Applicant's invention to modify the teachings of Alam with the teachings of Champagne to include a method characterized by, said data item is associated to a grouping identifier that is manually selected from the register by a user of the first electronic device with the motivation to efficiently overcome problems associated with synchronizing files. (Alam, column 3, lines 18-19).

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As per claims 6 and 18, Alam does not explicitly teach a method characterized by, said data item is associated to a grouping identifier that is automatically selected from the register by the first electronic device.

Champagne teaches a method characterized by, said data item is associated to a grouping identifier that is automatically selected from the register by the first electronic device (i.e. "In the case of personal information manager (PIM) applications, several types of databases are typically used, where the type of a database corresponds to the type of data stored in the database: appointments, "to do" lists, address books, expense records, general notes records, and e-mails. For these types of databases, a field identification protocol preferably provides a comprehensive list of field categories such that the fields of most, if not all, of commercially available PIM databases can be categorized according to the categories in the field identification protocol." The preceding text clearly indicates that the first electronic device may automatically data items associated with appointments, which is an identifier, from the register, which is the PIM application. That is, when a user sets up an appointment, by entering the date and time of the appointment, the user is notified by the electronic device when that date and time occurs.)(page 3, paragraph 36).

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of Applicant's invention to modify the teachings of Alam with the teachings of Champagne to include a method characterized by, said data item is associated to a grouping identifier that is automatically selected from the register by the first electronic device with the motivation to efficiently overcome problems associated with synchronizing files. (Alam, column 3, lines 18-19).

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As per claims 7 and 19, Alam does not teach a method characterized by, said data item is associated to a grouping identifier that is formed by a user of the first electronic device.

Champagne teaches a method characterized by, said data item is associated to a grouping identifier that is formed by a user of the first electronic device (i.e. "The information identifying the record structure of one of the databases identifies the record structure according to a selected field identification protocol identifying the categories and properties of the fields in the record structure of that database." The preceding text clearly indicates that a data item is contained within a record structure and is associated with an identifier, which are categories.)(Abstract).

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of Applicant's invention to modify the teachings of Alam with the teachings of Champagne to include a method characterized by, said data item is associated to a grouping identifier that is formed by a user of the first electronic device with the motivation to efficiently overcome problems associated with synchronizing files. (Alam, column 3, lines 18-19).

As per claims 8 and 20, Alam does not teach a method characterized by, said created grouping identifier is stored to the register of the first electronic device.

Champagne teaches a method characterized by, said created grouping identifier is stored to the register of the first electronic device (i.e. "In the case of personal information manager (PIM) applications, several types of databases are typically used, where the type of a database corresponds to the type of data stored in the database: appointments, "to do" lists, address books, expense records, general notes records, and e-mails. For these types of databases, a field identification protocol preferably provides a comprehensive list of field categories such that the fields of most, if not all,

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of commercially available PIM databases can be categorized according to the categories in the field identification protocol." The preceding text clearly indicates that the created identifiers are appointments, 'to do' lists, address books, etc., and are stored to the register, which is the database.)(page 3, paragraph 36).

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of Applicant's invention to modify the teachings of Alam with the teachings of Champagne to include a method characterized by, said created grouping identifier is stored to the register of the first electronic device with the motivation to efficiently overcome problems associated with synchronizing files. (Alam, column 3, lines 18-19).

As per claim 12, Alam teaches a method characterized by, said grouping identifier comprises an icon to be visually presented to the user of the first device (i.e. "A user may enter commands and information into the desktop computer 14 through input devices such as a keyboard 40, pointing device 42 and microphone 43. Other input devices (not shown) may include a joystick, game pad, satellite dish, scanner, or the like. These and other input devices are often connected to the processing unit 62 through a serial port interface 46 that is coupled to the system bus 66, but may be connected by other interfaces, such as a sound card, a parallel port, game port or a universal serial bus (USB) A monitor 47 or other type of display device is also connected to the system bus 66 via an interface, such as a video adapter 48." The preceding text clearly indicates that an icon is a type of command or information entered by a user and a monitor is a display device that allows the visually presentation.)(column 6, lines 54-66).

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of Applicant's invention to modify the teachings of Alam with the teachings of Champagne to include a method characterized by, said grouping identifier comprises an icon to be

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visually presented to the user of the first device with the motivation to efficiently overcome problems associated with synchronizing files. (Alam, column 3, lines 18-19).

As per claim 13, Alam teaches a method characterized by, said grouping identifier further comprising text to be visually presented to the user of the first device (i.e. "A user may enter commands and information into the desktop computer 14 through input devices such as a keyboard 40, pointing device 42 and microphone 43. Other input devices (not shown) may include a joystick, game pad, satellite dish, scanner, or the like. These and other input devices are often connected to the processing unit 62 through a serial port interface 46 that is coupled to the system bus 66, but may be connected by other interfaces, such as a sound card, a parallel port, game port or a universal serial bus (USB) A monitor 47 or other type of display device is also connected to the system bus 66 via an interface, such as a video adapter 48." The preceding text clearly indicates that an text is a type of command or information entered by a user and a monitor is a display device that allows the visually presentation.)(column 6, lines 54-66).

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of Applicant's invention to modify the teachings of Alam with the teachings of Champagne to include a method characterized by, said grouping identifier further comprising text to be visually presented to the user of the first device with the motivation to efficiently overcome problems associated with synchronizing files. (Alam, column 3, lines 18-19).

As per claim 14, Alam does not teach a method characterized by, said grouping identifier further comprising information of those data items associated to said grouping identifier.

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Champagne teaches a method characterized by, said grouping identifier further comprising information of those data items associated to said grouping identifier (i.e. "A field identification protocol provides a syntax for identifying and communicating characteristics of a field of a database. It provides two types of information: information identifying a "category" for the field and information identifying a "property" of a field." The preceding text clearly indicates that an identifier is a category and the information of those data items associated to the identifier is the properties.)(page 3, paragraph 35).

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of Applicant's invention to modify the teachings of Alam with the teachings of Champagne to include a method characterized by, said grouping identifier further comprising information of those data items associated to said grouping identifier with the motivation to efficiently overcome problems associated with synchronizing files. (Alam, column 3, lines 18-19).

1. Claims 9-11 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Alam et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,324,544 and known hereinafter as Alam) in view of Champagne et al (U.S. Patent Pub. No. 2005/0086199 and known hereinafter as Champagne) and in further view of Huskin (U.S. Patent No. 6,141,663).

As per claims 9 and 21, Alam and Champagne do not explicitly teach a method characterized by, a user of the first electronic device selects the grouping identifier for the synchronization manually.

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Hunkins teaches a method characterized by, a user of the first electronic device selects the grouping identifier for the synchronization manually (i.e. "Manual Update. Each of the databases containing redundant data can be viewed as islands of automation. Information that is common to all can be updated by manually entering the information into each of the separate databases. This is an extremely common method." The previous text clearly indicates that synchronization occurs manually.)(column 2, lines 49-53).

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of Applicant's invention to modify the teachings of Alam with the teachings of Champagne and further with the teachings of Hunkins to include a method characterized by, a user of the first electronic device selects the grouping identifier for the synchronization manually with the motivation to efficiently overcome problems associated with synchronizing files. (Alam, column 3, lines 18-19).

As per claim 10, Alam and Champagne do not explicitly teach method characterized by, the first electronic device selects the grouping identifier for the synchronization automatically.

Hunkins teaches a method characterized by, the first electronic device selects the grouping identifier for the synchronization automatically (i.e. "It is an object of the present invention to allow redundant data to be updated automatically, without human intervention, in order to provide and preserve data integrity and synchronization." The preceding text clearly indicates that synchronization occurs automatically.)(column 4, lines 12-16).

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of Applicant's invention to modify the teachings of Alam with the teachings of Champagne

and further with the teachings of Hunkins to include a method characterized by, the first electronic device selects the grouping identifier for the synchronization automatically with the motivation to efficiently overcome problems associated with synchronizing files. (Alam, column 3, lines 18-19).

As per claim 11, Alam and Champagne do not explicitly teach a method characterized by, the first electronic device performs the synchronization periodically.

Hunkins teaches a method characterized by, the first electronic device performs the synchronization periodically (i.e. "When the scheduled time is reached, the preferred embodiment begins processing each Change Object one by one. Each Change Object is asked for its database references. With this information, all available Format files, like those listed in 1c are scanned to see if the changed data is also appearing in an outside data file. If it is, the external data file is located with the link file as shown 1e and the Format file is used to surgically update the external data file. Since the complete format is now known, this is a manageable problem. When the project file is completed and all Change Objects have been executed, all external data files are synchronized to the common database. "The preceding text clearly indicates that periodically is a schedule time.)(column 8, lines 6-18).

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of Applicant's invention to modify the teachings of Alam with the teachings of Champagne and further with the teachings of Hunkins to include a method characterized by, the first electronic device performs the synchronization periodically with the motivation to efficiently overcome problems associated with synchronizing files. (Alam, column 3, lines 18-19).

#### Conclusion

7. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

#### **Contact Information**

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Farhan M. Syed whose telephone number is 571-272-7191. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30AM-5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jeffrey Gaffin can be reached on 571-272-4146. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

**FMS** 

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